

Post Falls Historical Society Newsletter

Spring 2024

From the President's desk:

The Post Falls Historical Society wishes you a warm welcome as we open the museum for the 2024 season. Your support is appreciated and is an integral part of keeping Post Falls' history alive and well; membership dues and donations help to keep the doors open and the lights on as we welcome visitors. Over the winter we have been working with the Idaho Heritage Trust through a grant to help preserve and begin making some much needed repairs to the nearly 101 year old Chapin Building that houses the museum. As you are making plans for summer visitors, please be sure to take your guests to the Post Falls Museum so they may experience the rich history of our area. I look forward to welcoming you!

Sincerely,

Catherine McClintick, President

Post Falls Historical Society



In addition to our regular seasonal schedule, the museum also opens for special tours, as volunteers are available. On Saturday, January 27, 2024 an American Heritage Girls group came by for a tour. With leaders and family members joining in, approximately 45 visitors toured the museum that day. Volunteers Catherine McClintick, Carol Yost and Cindy Mead enjoyed visiting with the group.

(Photo by Katie Jennings)

Post Falls Museum invites community to come visit in 2024

The Post Falls Museum plans to officially open its 2024 season on Thursday, May 16. At current volunteer levels, It will be open to the public Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays. Please stop by these days between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. to learn about local history!

The museum is a great place to visit, whether you're new to the area or have been here for years, Even past visitors say they always seem to see something new when they come to visit. The museum is also designed so guests can browse by themselves or receive a guided tour through the different rooms. Each volunteer is happy to share their own perspective and memories of the area.

Our volunteers are important, and if we have more available to help, we can extend the hours that we're open or even be open additional days! In addition to our regular days and hours of operation, visitors can make arrangements to come at other times for research needs or be part of a tour.

Grateful appreciation for the following new and renewing members for 2024!

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ed & Julie Adamchak | Jim Guy | Charlotte Newman | Schneidmiller Family Farms |
| Bill & Sharon Alexander | Waylon & Laura Harness * | Richard Nordstrom | Elwin Schutt |
| Bonnie Babcock | Bob & Eileen Ickes | Fred & Mary Ostermeyer, | Seright's Ace Hardware |
| Patricia Bentley | Robert Jacobs II | Managed Resources | Robert & Marilyn Shay |
| Bob & Dorene Berard | Roxanna Johnson | Christene Pappas | Chuck Smith |
| Donna Rae Bradley | Bruce & Liz Jones | Marvin Patzer | Ryan & Katie St Marie * |
| Lew & Kim Brown | Margaret Joseph * | Rusty & Sara Pence | Super 1 Foods |
| Helen Burge * | Bruce & Amy Kelly | Lisa Peterson | Kaiti Tesar |
| Fay Carpenter | Gregory & Cindy Lucas | Jeannie Peugh | Sonja Uihlein |
| Judy Cowan | Joslyn Mack | Post Falls Kiwanis | Brian Watkins * |
| Margret Evenson, Annie Even- | Catherine McClintick | Debra Raymer | Susie Mead Williams |
| son Mader, Louise Shepherd | Cheryl McHale * | Jane Robertson | Carol Yost |
| Fairway Floor Inc | Cindy Mead | Shelley Ruff | *Welcome new members! |
| Bob Frazey | Warren & Dana Merritt | Kathryn Russell | |
| Ed & Nancy Frazey | Charley & Phillis Mixon | Dorothy Satchwell | |
| Ted Fredekind | John & Nancy Nation | Suzanne Schmidt | |

Post Falls Historical Society Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Catherine McClintick

Vice President: Sara Pence

Secretary: Joe Butler

Treasurer: Carol Yost

Immediate Past President: Judy Cowan

Board Members:

Kim Brown

Cindy Mead

Louise Paulson

Jane Robertson

Brian Watkins

Ted Fredekind (Emeritus)

Bridging the Past To the Present

Post Falls Ties To The Washington Territory and George Washington

By Kimberly Rice Brown

The Washington Territory of 1853 included parts of Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana.

1853: As the Pacific Northwest became more settled, the United States Congress separated the Oregon Territory, carving out portions of present Washington, Idaho and Montana as part of a new Washington Territory. It was named for our first president, George Washington. Soon thereafter, territorial governor Isaac Stevens and Lt. John Mullan of the U.S. Army surveyed the area for a northern transcontinental railroad route. That railroad route remains today in the BNSF railroad.



1859: The Coeur d' Alene Tribe signed a peace treaty at Cataldo with the U.S. Government after the Step-toe Battle and the Battle of the Spokane Plains. That enabled the Mullan Road, a military road to be constructed through present Montana, Idaho

and Washington.

1863: Idaho became its own territory in 1863 due in part to the various gold discoveries, and the Westward expansion of settlers to the region.

1871: Frederick Post came to the area, living first in Spokane, later in Rathdrum and finally in Post Falls. He and his family are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery.

1890: Idaho became a state.

1891: Post Falls became incorporated.

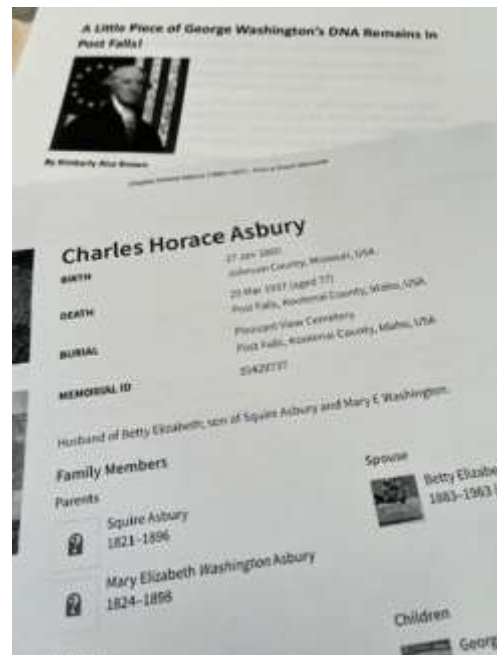
2024: Today Post Falls is the 9th largest city in Idaho and sits on I-90 connecting the states of Montana, Idaho and Washington. These areas have long standing territorial roots.

George Washington's family members are scattered across the United States. As with the past, settlers to this day come from a variety of states and countries.

The Washington-Asbury family members settled in the Pleasant View area of Post Falls. Some of the census records list them as living near Spokane Bridge. That area has been taken up by I-90 and the bridges that cross the Spokane River. In the old days, state lines were on maps, but residents did business and worked across the state lines.

The Washington colonial family originated in England and lived in Virginia. George Washington's brother, John, and his family members scattered

with the westward expansion to West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and then on to our piece of Idaho. Several Washing-



ton family members also live in the State of Washington.

The Asbury-Giles families and many Pleasantview families are buried at the Pleasantview Cemetery. Former Society president, John Reynolds is part of the extended Giles family. Two Giles sisters married into the Plonske and Reynolds families.

As the Society plans for other activities in September, stay tuned for more "BRIDGING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT" projects.

Mark your calendars for historic preservation events in September and October, including a historical society fundraiser at Rosemary Manor Sept 12 and Pleasantview Cowboy Breakfasts in the spring and fall.

Post Falls Tribunes find new home



The Post Falls Historical Society has a new tool to learn about the history of our town: 20 years worth of the Post Falls Tribune.

There are now bound volumes of the weekly community paper in the museum's media room, spanning the years 1971 to 1999.

Visitors are welcome to come and browse articles when we're open.

The articles give a good glimpse of the region's activities from that time period, including annual traditions such as publishing a photo of whoever brings in the first flower of the season.

The Tribunes come to us in a roundabout way from the Post Falls Library.

Library staff originally offered the collection and a case last spring, but

our museum was currently closed due to mold contamination.

When the library had to be closed in the winter due to flooding, they offered them again with more urgency. At the time, our

museum was closed but City Hall allowed us to temporarily house them in the basement until we found a suitable spot.

Then, at the end of April, historical society board members began mov-

ing them to their new home at the museum.

The collection has already received one noteworthy visitor: Jeannie Carter Peugh, who served as office manager at the Tribune. She worked with a variety of owners, editors, and publishers, including Frank Henderson.

She's also a fan of local media: "Just as the eyes are windows to the soul, a newspaper is a window to the community."

Eventually, the society would like to digitize the issues, which could be an interesting project for a volunteer or a group of volunteers to take part in.

Upper left: Bound Tribune volumes at the library. **Below:** Jeannie Peugh views one of the bound volumes. (Kim Brown photos)



Our Historical Society Mission:

WE **collect** photographs, stories, memories, oral video histories, veterans' information, and artifacts.

WE **preserve** our information in files, in our Past Perfect museum software (a work in

progress), in historic signage, and in our newsletter publications.

WE **share** our history at the Post Falls Museum with students, visitors, and newcomers.

We **share** history with online researchers, in historic presentations, and in writing.

Our **VOLUNTEERS** work to achieve all of the above.

Please join us in supporting this important work.

Check out our new gutters

The Post Falls Museum had to be closed to the public for much of the 2023 season due to unexpected mold contamination in the basement.

The process of cleaning up the mold and keeping it from coming back actually led to recent improvements at the Chapin Building, specifically new gutters.

During our analysis of what caused the mold outbreak, we also looked at ways to keep it from coming back.

This research included discussions with the City of Post Falls as well as representatives from the Idaho Heritage Trust, an organiza-

tion that provides guidance and expertise in restoring and repairing older buildings as well as tips on preserving them.

One issue that was identified was the gutters were bent, which caused a large amount of water to move into the basement.

A grant was obtained from the Idaho Heritage Trust and we hired Bulldog Seamless Gutters to get the job done. Bids are underway for heated gutter cables, and the city will also add a permanent drain line.

The society will need to schedule cleaning each fall as part of our winterization efforts.

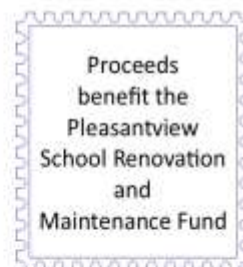
Cowboy Breakfast

June 8, 2024, 8 to 11 A.M.

18724 W Riverview Dr, Post Falls

All You Can Eat!

Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Scrambled Eggs,
Honey Butter & Jam, Coffee, Cocoa & Juice
\$10.00 Per Person/Family Rates Available



Above: When We Started

Right: The historic schoolhouse today



Other Upcoming Events:

When you're putting together your 2024 schedule, make sure 'take a trip to the Post Falls Museum' is part of it!

A trip to the local museum is sometimes an annual tradition for some families, since it can be fun for adults as well as children. It's also a good way to learn stories from the past.

Visitors also make our volunteers happy!

One upcoming opportunity to see our museum and meet some of our board members and volunteers is at the annual Ice Cream Social, which takes place during the Post Falls Festival.

Stop by the museum after the parade on Saturday, July 13. We'll be scooping ice cream and giving information about the historical society.

Other opportunities to get involved are still in the works, including a fall fund-raiser hosted by Rosemary Manor.

Would you like to join the Historical Society?

Support from our members allows us to keep the Post Falls Museum open and educate the community.

Members also receive free admission to several other museums statewide, plus a great newsletter.

Join or renew today!

The Post Falls Historical Society is a 501(c)3 volunteer non-profit organization sharing and preserving local history since 1988.

The board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and attendance is also available by Zoom meeting.

Join the Post Falls Historical Society Today!

Membership in our society allows us to keep our museum open and available to the community.

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join as well!

Together we can preserve our past for the future.

Make membership/renewal checks payable to **Post Falls Historical Society**

Mail to:

Post Falls Historical Society

PO Box 57

Post Falls ID 83877

2024 Membership:

☐ **Renewal** - *Thank you!*

☐ **New Member** - *Welcome!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Level: (Check one)

_____ Individual \$20

_____ Family \$30

_____ Business/Contributor \$100

I'm interested in helping!

_____ Board Member

_____ Education

_____ Events and Activities

_____ Museum Host

_____ Other:

Visit the Post Falls Historical Society Museum at 101 E 4th Ave, Post Falls

Contact Information: Museum: (208) 262-9642

(New) email address: postfallshistoricalsociety@gmail.com

postfallsmuseum.weebly.com/